Problem
Over 100 years of suppressing wildfires and changing climate have produced overgrown forests with increasing risk of catastrophic wildfires that threaten humans, wildlife, air quality, drinking water and other forest resources in the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group watersheds in Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests. Catastrophic wildfires can accelerate Climate Change by releasing tons of greenhouse gases into the air while severely reducing the forest's ability to absorb and store atmospheric carbon. Forests evolved through the ages with low to moderate-intensity fires that cleared the underbrush, so fire is inevitable. Reducing the risk of devastating catastrophic wildfires is urgently needed.

Shared Vision
ACCG supports **a major shift by managers to using fire to restore forests over large areas** **following** **a science-based concept called P*yrosilviculture.* *Pyrosilviculture*** is a concept of forest restoration using fire that is described in a 2021 publication by 12 scientists led by Dr. Malcolm North. We want to apply the best available science to restore forests to a more natural condition to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Fire has been used for restoration in Yosemite and other National Parks and in forests in the southern US for many decades, so it is a proven tool.

***Pyrosilviculture*** includes 1) thinning treatments designed to expand prescribed and managed fire and connect dispersed treatments, 2) using low and moderate severity fire as treatments on a large landscape scale and reestablish frequent fires to control vegetation growth, and 3) identifying managed wildfire zones ranging from suppression to intentional burning. Broad landscape objectives are needed for ***Pyrosilviculture*** because fire is a blunter tool than silvicultural prescriptions to control tree size and density. So greater acceptance of tree mortality and canopy openings is needed. ***Pyrosilviculture*** thinning includes:

**1) Anchor** **treatments** – treating fuels in strategic locations using thinning to control prescribed and managed wildfire and resist severe fire,

**2) Ecosystem asset treatments** – pre-treating riparian corridors, spotted owl territories, or large-tree area assets prior to introducing fire, and

**3) Revenue treatments** -- removing timber and biomass to provide a revenue stream to fund prescribed and managed fire.

Desired Actions

We want an Action Plan for National Forest Lands developed in collaboration with ACCG on ways to apply ***Pyrosilviculture*** in the ACCG area, including how fire will achieve resource objectives, methods, zones for managed wildfire, barriers, costs, and a large-scale project.

We want elected officials and the USFS to fund the planning and implementation of science based ***Pyrosilviculture*** to restore forests in the ACCG area**.** To overcome barriers***,*** additional trained staff, equipment, and funding dedicated to increased fire-use are needed***.***